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Letter No. 2333

October 8, 1987

OLD CORN
STOCKS

Old crop corn stored in all positions on September 1, 1987, is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 4 billion, 880 million bushels. Of the total stocks, 2 billion 280 million bushels are stored on the farm and 2 billion 600 million are stored off the farm. The indicated disappearance from all storage positions during June-August 1987 totaled 1 billion 450 million bushels, up 53 percent from the comparable period last year.

OLD CROP
SOYBEANS

The 1987 carryover of old crop soybeans as of September 1 is 436 million bushels, 19 percent below September 1 of last year, but 38 percent above two years ago, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Soybeans stored on-farm totaled 108 million bushels, down 35 percent from September 1, 1986, and account for 25 percent of the soybean stocks stored in all positions on September 1, 1987. Off-farm stocks, at 328 million bushels, were 11 percent less than a year ago.

WHEAT
STOCKS

The stocks of wheat in all positions on September 1, 1987, totaled 2 billion 960 million bushels, 6 percent less than stocks on hand on September 1, 1986, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Off-farm stocks are placed at 1 billion 810 million bushels, or 61 percent of all stocks. The off-farm level is 3 percent less than a year earlier. Wheat stored on farms is 1 billion 150 million bushels, down 11 percent from last year.

PROVISIONS OF
U.S.-CANADA
AGREEMENT

The Free Trade Agreement initiated between Canada and the United States offers crop, livestock and horticultural producers on both sides of the border the opportunity to market their products with less disruptions from trade barriers, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The provisions include the removal of all tariffs over the next ten years, an exemption from each countries' respective meat import laws, removal of transportation subsidies provided by Canada on shipments to the U.S., a limitation on the future use of U.S. import quotas on grain and sugar-containing products with less than 10 percent sugar, the removal of Canada's present grain import licensing system, and an increase in Canadian import quotas for poultry, eggs and their products.

UPDATE ON
SOVIET GRAIN
HARVEST

As of September 21, rainy weather was still plaguing the Soviet grain harvest, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Small grains and pulses were cut on over 240 million acres, of which 223 million were threshed. The latter figure represents 83 percent of the sown area. Additionally, 1 million, 265 thousand acres of corn-for-grain were cut. Corn for all purposes was cut on 36½ million acres. The lateness of the grain harvest is indicated by comparing this year's 224 million acres threshed figures with the 250 million acres in 1986 and an average of 259 million acres during 1980-85.

\$778 MILLION
IN PAYMENTS

On October 1, the U.S. Department of Agriculture began issuing approximately \$778 million in generic commodity certificates as payments to producers participating in the Conservation Reserve Program. For the 1986 crop year, producers are receiving \$88 million for about 2 million acres, and for the 1987 crop year, \$690 million for 14 million acres. The generic certificates may be exchanged for commodities in USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation's inventory.

TEA FOR
1988

Acting Under Sec'y of Agriculture Richard W. Goldberg announced 34 projects that will receive \$80 million in Targeted Export Assistance, or TEA, allocations for fiscal year 1988. Additional TEA allocations may be announced later depending on the outcome of the fiscal year 1988 budget process. The TEA program uses surplus stocks from the Commodity Credit Corporation to help U.S. producers finance promotional activities for U.S. agricultural products to counter or offset the adverse effects of unfair foreign trade practices. For additional information and referral to the appropriate program contact, call 202-447-5521.

DAIRY
TERMINATION
UPDATE

An estimated 200 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants during the week ending September 19 as a result of the Dairy Termination Program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These add up to a total of nearly 1¼ million head from April 1, 1986, through Sept. 19, 1987. Dairy cattle reported for export under the program totaled nearly 66 thousand.

MEAT IMPORTS
BELOW TRIGGER

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng announced that U.S. meat imports for calendar year 1987 are projected at 1 billion, 439 million pounds, one million pounds below the level that would require quotas on imports. Lyng said the U.S. will not have to impose the quota because Australia and New Zealand, the two largest suppliers of imported meats, have agreed to limit their meat exports to the U.S. for the rest of the year.

COMMENTS ASKED

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture asked for public comment on a proposal for calculating the fees an estimated 13,000 livestock operators are charged to graze sheep and cattle on national forests and land utilization projects in 16 western States. Comments are due by Nov. 21. Details are in the October Federal Register, available from Forest Service regional offices in Ariz., Cal., Col., Idaho, Mont., Neb., Nev., N.Mex., N.Dak., Okla., Ore., S.Dak., Tex., Utah, Wash. and Wyo.

FROM OUR
TELEVISION
SERVICE

U.S./CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT...The two largest trading partners in the world, the U.S. and Canada, are on the way toward a trade agreement that would eliminate all tariffs between the two nations. Leo Mayer, assoc. admin., Foreign Agricultural Service, examines this agreement. Vic Powell interviews. (296)

WEATHER AND CROP UPDATE...Shorter days signal a change in weather patterns that will lead the nation into the winter season. USDA chief meteorologist Dr. Norton Strommen offers the latest weather and crop update. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (297)

1988 FEED GRAIN PROGRAM...The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture recently announced major provisions for the 1988 Feed Grain Program. Orville Overboe, Agri. Stab. and Cons. Serv., takes a look at the major provisions under this program. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (299)

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT...Mary Simon Leuci, Univ. of Missouri, takes a look at internal strategies for community economic development and why rural communities as well as urban neighborhoods need to focus on this phase of rural redevelopment. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (299)

OFF-FARM EMPLOYMENT...Marvin Konya, Extension Serv., focuses on current problems facing rural America today and takes a look at off-farm employment as a means of helping farmers to overcome some of their hardships. Vic Powell interviews. (300)

FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1584...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Because of problems with some agricultural chemicals (toxicity, contamination of drinking water, danger to endangered species), farmers will face even more controls and restrictions on their use of pesticides and fertilizers. Gary Crawford talks with several experts on the subject of farm chemicals and the environment.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1573...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Final payments on '86 crop corn and sorghum program; Food industry fights listeria; U.S./Canadian free trade agreement; Water contamination study.

CONSUMER TIME #1064...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) The changing U.S. diet; Nutrition terms confuse many; Selenium and your health; Is your drinking water safe?; Listeria--old bacterium poses new problems.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Thurs, Oct. 15, U.S. milk production; Fri, Oct. 16, World Food Day coverage; Mon, Oct. 19, Ag. outlook report; Tues, Oct. 20, Dairy outlook, Crop and weather update, Catfish production; Thurs, Oct. 22, Poultry production, World tobacco outlook; Fri, Oct. 23, Cattle on feed report, World food needs update. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

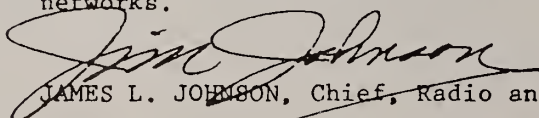
OFF MIKE

Gary Diguseppe (Brownfield Net, Centertown, MO) had an "interesting" experience but one he wouldn't wish on anyone. He rolled his car on the way to work recently and survived with nothing worse than a rather badly lacerated ear and a good quota of bumps and bruises. His Dodge Colt wasn't as fortunate and was totaled. Gary's comment: "I got out of it lucky, thanks to the seat belt I put on." He also added that words of sympathy are okay but gifts and money....!! They would be for the Colt, of course ... Tony Purcell is seeking another pasture in either farm broadcasting or regular news reporting. He's been with the Mid America Ag Net in Wichita, KS for eight years now and figures it's time to move on. His phone number is 316-267-0293 ... Don Wick (Ag Com Net, Marshall, MN) was honored recently by the Minnesota VoAg instructors. They presented him with their Agribusiness Award for his work in promoting vocational agriculture. Our Congratulations! ... And speaking of

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honors, George Stephens (WDAF, Kansas City, MO) has been named to the American Polled Hereford Association's Hall of Merit "...for his outstanding contributions to the beef industry in the field of communications." Nice going, George. Incidentally, George is working on another overseas tour, this time to Australia and New Zealand. More to come on that later ... And still another lusty huzzah goes to John Berg (KSL, Salt Lake City, UT) who was named Utah's state "Friend of Extension" by Epsilon Sigma Phi, the national extension fraternity ... Ed Slusarczyk (WTLB/Ag Radio Net, Utica, NY) sent us a Wall Street Journal clipping that reported on his expansion beyond ag news into non-ag news and sports. The article talks about how satellite technology is providing the means for starting and expanding networks.



JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division